व्यावसायिक अध्ययन हेतु केन्द्रीय संस्थान

*258. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
कुमारी आलिया :

क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार रोजगारोन्मुख पाठयक्रमों को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए व्यावसायिक अध्ययन हेतु एक केन्द्रीय संस्थान स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इन संस्थानों को किन-किन स्थानों पर स्थापित किये जाने की संभावना है और इस प्रयोजनार्थ कितनी धनराशि स्वीकृत किये जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) क्या इनमें से किसी संस्थान के मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश में भी स्थापित किये जाने की संभावना है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) प्रस्तावित संस्था, शोध और विकास, शिक्षा के व्यवसायीकरण के कार्यक्रम का अनुश्रवण और मूल्यांकन से सम्बन्धित कार्य करेगी । वित्तीय आवश्यकताओं सहित अन्य ब्यौरे निर्धारित क्रियाविधि और चरणों पर आधारित होंगे ।

(ग) संस्था के स्थान के सम्बन्ध में अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं किया गया है

Alkaline land

*259. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is total area of the alkaline land in the country and the per centage thereof to the total agricultural land, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring it under cultivation during the Eighth plan period; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) A statement showing State-wise details of total area of alkaline land its percentage to the total agricultural land (Net-Area Sown) is laid on the Table of the Sabha. (*See bolew*).

(b) Ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils will continue in the Eighth Plan. Apart from that, the State Governments will also continue their programme for reclamation of alkali soils out of their own resources.

tatement

(Area in lakhs ha.) % of Alkal

Sl. No.	State/U. Ts.	Net Area sown	Area affected by alkalinity	Area to total Net area sown
1	Andhra Pradesh	110·12	0·64	0·58
2	Bihar	76·04	0·04	0·05
3	Gujarat	94·02	9·42**	10·02
4	Haryana	35·64	4·50	12·63
5	Karnataka	105·01	0·76	0·72

(Area in lakhs ha.)

	State/U.Ts.	Net Area sown	Area affected by alkali nity	% of Alkali Area to total Net area sown
6	Madhya Pradesh	193·11	1·64	0·85
7	Maharashtra	180·19	0·59	0·33
8	Punjab	42·15	7·18	17·03
9	Tamil Nadu	55·47	0·04	0·07
10	Uttar Pradesh	172·09	11·00	6·39
	TOTAL :	1063·84	35·81	3·37

**Includes the area of arid Rajasthan and Gujarat.

High prices of Text-books

*260. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that high prices of books act as a disincentive for poor and middle class families to allow their children to pursue their studies;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to make books available at cheap rates for students in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In pursuance of the resolve expressed in the National Policy on Education, 1986 to make available quality books at low prices, several measures are continuing at Government level. The Central Government initiative for school students of classes I-XII is implemented through the National Council of Educational Research and Training, (NCERT). The pricing of NCERT text books is done on a no-profit no-loss basis. The Council does not price its text books for classes I to VIII beyond Rs. 15/- and absorbs the losses, if any. The National Book Trust operates a scheme of subsidised publication of university level text/reference books and technical books of diploma level. The University Grants Commission also provides development grants to universities and colleges, *inter-alia*, for purchase of books by the institutions.

Till 31st March, 1990, the Central Government supplied white printing paper at subsidised rates to States and Union Territories for the production of school text books and exercise books to make them available to the students at reasonable prices.

(d) Does not arise.

2498. [*Transferred to the 26th March, 1992*].

Removal of restrictions on imports

2499. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free market access and removal of restrictions on imports in favour of the multinational and monopoly